

IAC Mission Success Stories

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MSIAC

Story 1

Story 2

MSIAC Rises to Meet JEFX Challenge

There was no time to spare . . . The Air Force's Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment (JEFX 99) was in its final week and the leadership of the Air Force Experimentation Office (AFEO) wanted to know just how well the simulation system supporting the experiment was performing. They turned to the Modeling and Simulation Information and Analysis Center (MSIAC) to see what they could do.

Continued on Story 1

Partnerships Key to Sharing Success

After just one year in existence, the Modeling and Simulation Information and Analysis Center (MSIAC) has made enormous strides to reach into the broadest possible cross-section of the modeling and simulation community. MSIAC provides compliance testing for DoD's High Level Architecture for simulations and hosts the Modeling and Simulation Resource Repository. MSIAC has established partnerships with 20 M&S organizations from Government, the Department of Defense, academia, and industry. MSIAC continues to seek active partners to share ideas, resources, and the best practices of other users and developers of M&S products and services. These organizations represent the recognized leaders in their respective focus areas. Through these partnerships, MSIAC is reaching far beyond the traditional defense M&S user to share solutions and approaches that will benefit not only DoD, but also the broader community.

Continued on Story 2

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MSIAC

Story 1

Story 2

MSIAC Rises to Meet JEFX Challenge (continued)

MSIAC responded by providing three senior analysts within 12 hours of getting the task order in place. The analysts brought with them a wealth of operational, experimentation and simulation experience, plus extensive knowledge of military C4ISR systems and methods. They set to work immediately, assessing the technical configuration of the federation of simulations working together and gaining an understanding of the experiment's aims. They had to overcome skepticism among the JEFX support staff, but quickly established that they indeed were there to help and had much to offer.

It was evident that the simulation support infrastructure was very effective and that the Air Force should document its efforts as a baseline for future experiments. The MSIAC analysts identified some minor problems and offered solutions, emphasizing their role as independent, objective, and unbiased observers. They quickly developed a framework for assessment of the M&S components and refined the framework as the work progressed. The objective was to establish a framework that would serve the entire Experimentation process—from concept development to fielded systems.

The MSIAC team applied proven business practices, adapted to the military experimentation process, and used an enterprise model to enable the AFEO to assess individual concepts and their relationship to achieving success. This paradigm became known as the Experiment-Model-Experiment process—a form of spiral development.

The Experimentation Enterprise Model and the assessment framework were well received and incorporated into JEFX for the future. The team was asked to brief its findings and recommendations to senior Air Force leaders in the Air Combat Command and at the Pentagon.

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MSIAC

Story 1

Story 2

Partnerships Key to Sharing Success (continued)

Among MSIAC's government partners are the Air Force Operational Test Center, the Iowa Technology Center, the Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Sandia National Laboratory, and the Center for Advanced Transportation Systems Simulation. These organizations employ leading-edge technology and creative thinking to maximize the impact and effectiveness of M&S tools. And they are sharing insights with each other to get even better results.

By partnering with academia, the MSIAC is able to get in on the latest research as well as to provide the balance of practical experience to forward thinking. Joining in this endeavor are the Iowa State University, the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI), and the Institute for Simulation Training (IST) at the University of Central Florida.

Simulation industry leaders such as SAIC, ITT, CSC, AEgis, VTC, IMC, Innativ, Camber, Skyward, and Trident are potent allies in creating a center of excellence for modeling and simulation. They bring vast experience and an enormous body of customers to bear to help explore and expand the best uses for emerging M&S technology.

MSIAC serves as the gathering place for ideas and innovation—helping to establish the state of the available art—pushing development of new ideas and sharing successful practices. MSIAC will continue to explore partnerships with M&S users, developers, and advanced researchers to promote advancement and maximize the impact of this exciting technology.

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